Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI SF WA CI UNGA

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SOUTH AFRICAN AF CINC TO CHILE

REF: 77 SANTIAGO 9873

1. CHILEAN AIR FORCE CINC AND JUNTA MEMBER GENERAL GUSTAVO LEIGH INVITED HIS SOUTH AFRICAN AIR FORCE COUNTERPART LIEUTENANT GENERAL ROBERT DOHERTY ROGERS TO CHILE, MARCH 19-27, TO ASSIST IN THE CELEBRATIONS OF THE 48TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHILEAN AIR FORCE, ONE OF THE OLDEST IN THE WORLD. LEIGH ROLLED OUT THE RED CARPET, DECORATING HIS GUEST WITH THE CHILEAN ARMED FORCES' HIGHEST DECORATION WHILE MAKING EXPLICIT THE SIMILARITY BETWEEN CHILE'S AND SOUTH AFRICA'S INSTITUTIONS, IDEALS AND PROBLEMS. GENERAL ROGERS WAS TACITURN AND DIPLOMATIC, PRAISING THE CHILEAN ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION AND LAMENTING THE SCARCITY OF STRONG LEADERSHIP IN THE WORLD.

2. COMMENT: GENERAL ROGERS WAS THE HIGHEST RANKING FOREIGN DIGNITARY FOR THE AIR FORCE CELEBRATIONS. LAST YEAR TWO HIGH LEVEL VISITS OF CHILEAN NAVY AND ARMY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GENERAL OFFICERS TO SOUTH AFRICA CAUSED SPECULATION OF POSSIBLE MILITARY COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THAT POSSIBILITY STILL EXISTS, BUT TO DATE, WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED CONFIRMATION THAT ANY ASSISTANCE IS BEING RECEIVED BY CHILE. LANDAU

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TAGS: MILI, SF, WA, CI, UNGA, (ROGERS, DOHERTY ROBERT)

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